

Husband: **RALPH ALLEN *JUNIOR***
 Born: 1606 – 1620 Thurcastan, Leicestershire, England
 Married: <1647 Sandwich, Sandwich Township, Plymouth Colony
 Died: 26 February 1658 Sandwich, Plymouth Colony
 Buried:
 Father: *Unknown, see discussion below*
 Mother:

Wife: **ESTHER SWIFT**
 Born: 1630 Bocking, England
 Died: 1691 Massachusetts
 Buried:
 Father: WILLIAM SWIFT
 Mother: JOAN SISSON

Issue*:	Born:	Place:
1) JEDIDIAH ALLEN	3 January 1647	Sandwich, Plymouth Colony ¹
2) EXPERIENCE ALLEN	14 March 1651	Sandwich, Plymouth Colony
3) MARY ALLEN	<i>1652/55 (est)</i>	buried 18 February 1675
4) EPHRAIM ALLEN	20 March 1656	Sandwich, Plymouth Colony
5) <i>JOSIAH ALLEN</i>	<i>1646</i>	
6) <i>JOSEPH ALLEN</i>	<i>1647</i>	
7) <i>PATIENCE ALLEN</i>	<i>1648</i>	
8) <i>ESTHER ALLEN</i>	<i>8 December 1648</i>	<i>Newport, Newport Colony</i>
9) <i>EBENEZER ALLEN</i>	<i>1649</i>	
10) <i>RALPH ALLEN</i>		

**Names in italic are not documented sufficiently to be accepted as fact. Named 'sons' JOHN and BENJAMIN not included as mother was less than 10 years old when born. Likewise 'son' INCREASE was born 7 years after father died.*

ESTER, daughter of WILLIAM SWIFT was baptized on 28 May 1629 at the *Church of Saint Mary Magdalen*, now in the Bermondsey section of the London borough of Southwark. Located on the south bank of the River Thames in the Hundred of Brixton in County Surrey at the time, it is close to Tower Bridge.² It is not known when the family left England but her parents were in Plymouth Colony by 1640. There is some evidence that RALPH was in Newport in the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in 1639.³ Portsmouth on the northern end of the island was founded in 1638 and 8 men from that town founded Newport in 1639. But, as evidenced from the following, people were already living at Newport the year before. RALPH, GEORGE, and SAMUEL ALLEN are name found on a list of *Inhabitants admitted at the Town of Nieu-port since the 20th of the 3:1638* (20 May 1638).⁴ Whether this was the same RALPH ALLEN has yet to be established.

There were two men named RALPH ALLEN in Sandwich with the earliest notice for either one beginning in 1643 when RALPH ALLEN of Sandwich was admitted as a freeman.⁵ Prior to this, there were just two men in the records of Plymouth Colony with the surname ALLEN: GEORGE ALLEN

first appears in records of Sandwich when he substitutes in for THOMAS ARMITAGE as Constable in 1639; a cursory review of the records indicates this person is not old enough to be the father of RALPH ALLEN THE ELDER, or *SENIOR*; perhaps he is a brother. GEORGE, KATHERINE, 3 sons and a servant sailed from Weymouth in Dorset on an unidentified vessel in 1636 or 1637 whose master was JOHN DRIVER.⁶ GEORGE ALLEN SENIOR was buried on 2 May 1648 in Sandwich.⁷ The Will of GEORGE ALLEN, the elder, of Sandwich, names his sons MATTHEW, HENRY, SAMUEL, and WILLIAM and his *five least children*. His wife CATHERINE is executrix with RALPH ALLEN and RICHARD BROWN as overseers.⁸ The second Plymouth man is JOHN ALLEN, appearing in records in 1637 and shown as living in Wellingsley, a section of the town Plymouth and with a wife named ANN. JOHN and ANN later live in Scituate and though no children have been found, they did adopt JOSIAS LEICHTFIELD to care for him *as their child*. JOSIAS's mother JUDITH lived in Scituate with her husband WILLIAM PEAKES and she appeared in Court more than once on her son's behalf but not to claim him. JOHN died in September or October 1662.⁹

The two RALPHS are sometimes distinguished in records by the appellation SENIOR and JUNIOR, probably designating older and younger but definitely not indicating that they were father and son. There are plenty of records about both men and separating them correctly has been a tortuous calling for some and their opinions have yet to be read so as to make an informed decision. The format used in the analyses has been to have RALPH ALLEN SENIOR as the son of GEORGE ALLEN but that has shown to be incorrect when considering their ages. RALPH ALLEN JUNIOR is the stonemason of uncertain parentage but untangling the two has demonstrated that many of the assumptions made, or repeated, by others may not be correct. It also is problematic as, after the deaths of one RALPH, the use of *Senior* and *Junior* continued but their application may have changed. The surname is found more often spelled ALLIN in records after 1660 but this may apply to just one of the families; this has yet to be analyzed.

As stated, RALPH is found as a mason or stonemason in some records. The record of births in the town of Sandwich record the births of their children JEDIDIAH and EXPERIENCE.¹⁰ However, most have said that JEDIDIAH's record of birth states that he was born to the *mason* RALPH ALLEN and such is not the case; the record only names his father as RALPH. In the Town Records of Barnstable RALPH ALLEN SENIOR, RALPH ALLEN JUNIOR, and WILLIAM SWIFT, possibly ESTHER's brother, are found on a list of subscribers for the building of a public building in that town recorded on 29 May 1654.¹¹

RALPH ALLEN JUNIOR served on the grand jury on 6 June 1654 and he was back in Court on 2 March 1657 – this time with WILLIAM ALLEN, PETER GAUNT, and DANIEL WINGE, to answer for their *tumultuous carriage at a meeting of Quakers in Sandwich*. After being admonished they were cleared but not before ticking the judge off. Their refusal to remove their hats was deemed to be an *unreverent carriage*, for which they were each fined 20s.¹² This was the period when the Society of Friends or Quakers was coming to prominence and this did not accord with the official state religion of the colony. There is no definitive record proving him to be a member but there are a number of times when the accused is named as RALPH ALLEN and, without additional information, one is hard-pressed to say which RALPH ALLEN was being charged. A RALPH ALLEN was imprisoned in Boston in 1659 but CHARLES II ordered his release (or so says the 1871 *NEHGR* article cited above.)

Esther's last Will and Testament

Notes

Jurisdictions in 1670: Plymouth, Duxbury, Scituate, Sandwich, Taunton, Yarmouth, Barnstable, Marshfield, Rehoboth, Eastham, Bridgewater, Dartmouth, Swansea & Middleberry. There's only one Freeman that may be a direct ancestor in 1670 and that is WILLIAM SWIFT.

RALPH ALLIN SENIOR of Sandwich was in Court on 7 October 1651 to answer for *their deriding and vile speeches concerning Gods word and ordinances*. He was bound over to the next Court date and acknowledged owing £20 to the Court after which is written *released. If he be of good behavior to all manner of persons, and appear at the General Court at Plymouth the first Tuesday of March* which is followed by another statement of owing the Court £10 – the brevity of the entry makes it difficult to understand what was being said. He and his wife were cited for not attending the public worship service contrary to the Court order of 6 June 1651; also cited were GEORGE ALLEN and his wife, WILLIAM ALLEN, ROSE NEWLAND and 7 others from Sandwich. JOAN ALLEN was issued Letters of Administration for the estate of her husband WILLIAM on 7 March 1643.¹³ On 2 March 1651 RALPH ALLEN SENIOR and RICHARD KERBEY were fined £5 each, payable before the June Court, *for speaking wild and derising speeches against Gods word and ordinances* or be whipped. RALPH refused to serve on the grand jury in June 1657 and in October he was ordered to post a bond for good behavior after he was found guilty of *entertaining diverse persons at sundry times* and for *his unworthy speeches* to the constable; he refused to post a bond and was remitted to the custody of the marshal. He remained in custody until he paid his fines in March 1658. In June 1658 he refused to take the *Oath of Fidelity* and was fined £5. On 2 October 1658 RALPH was among the 9 Sandwich men who were stripped of the right to act in town meetings or exercise any rights of freemen as they only enjoyed those rights through non legal admittance until such time they make their admittance legal. Then the Court immediately suspended admissions of all men at Sandwich without first getting the approval of the church, the governor and/or one of his assistants. The Court then administered the *Oath of Fidelity*, ostensibly to start the process to freeman status again but actually to uncover definite Quakers knowing that the tenets of the Society prevents the taking of Oaths. RALPH refused and was find £5; and he refused again at the Court held in June and October 1659; March, June, and October 1660; and March 1661 and was fined £5 each time – for a fine of £40. His house was searched in October 1659 for papers that were *false, scandalous, and pernicious to the government*.¹⁴

The town of Sandwich Vital Records is a listing of births, marriages, and deaths but it is not in chronological order nor is it grouped by families, though some entries group more than one childs birth together; earlier records follow later ones. Knowing what the genesis was for this record could help in understanding the layout. The lists for the children of two other Allen families are:

<u>George Allen (Junior) children</u>	<u>born</u>	<u>other</u>
Caleb Allen	24 June 1648	
Judah Allen	14 January 1650	or 30 January 1650 stated in record
Ephraim Allen	14 January 1652	
Elizabeth Allen	10 January 1654	
James Allen	5 August 1658	
John Allen	5 August 1658	

The marriage of Matthew Allen, *son of George Allen Senior*, and Sara Kerbey on 8 June 1654 establishes the existence of two men with this name, with Junior known to live in Sandwich. Senior died in 1648 and names his sons as MATTHEW, HENRY, SAMUEL, and WILLIAM.

James Allen	Amey Allen	14 Aug 1663
	Mary Allen	22 Dec 1665
	Abigail Allen	28 Sep 1667

¹ Sandwich Town Records, Births, Marriages &c 1639 – 1730; Jedidiah, Experience, and Ephraim's birth; and Mary's burial.

² Church of England Parish Registers, 1538-1812. London, England: London Metropolitan Archives, St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, Composite register: baptisms Mar 1603 - Dec 1642, marriages Apr 1603 - Dec 1642, burials Mar 1603 - Dec 1642, P71/MMG/003

³ "Ralph Allen of Newport, R.I. and some of his descendents who settled in New-Jersey," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 25:144 (1871) Available at Archive.org.

⁴ "Inhabitants admitted at the Town of Nieu-port since the 20th of the 3:1638," Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, 1:92 (Providence, R.I: Rhode Island Secretary of State; 1856) Digital version at Archive.org.

⁵ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Miscellaneous Records, Volume 8, 1633 – 1689 (Boston: William White; 1857) p. 192. Digital version at Archive.org.

⁶ "Emigrant Ships Departing Weymouth," *History and Heritage of Weymouth and Dorset*; <http://www.weymouth-dorset.co.uk/ships.html>, accessed 25 March 2019.

⁷ *supra*. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth. Miscellaneous Records, 8: 6.

⁸ "Abstract of the Earliest Wills," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 4:284 (1850) Available at Archive.org.

⁹ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Court Orders, Volume 4, 1661 – 1668 (New York: AMS Press, 1968; reprint of Boston: William White; 1855) pp. 35, 39, 81, 89. Digital version at Archive.org.

¹⁰ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988, Sandwich, Massachusetts, pp. 398 – 401; Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Vital and Town Records. Provo, UT: Holbrook Research Institute (Jay and Delene Holbrook).

¹¹ Town Records of Barnstable, p. 13. Available on Ancestry.com.

¹² Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Court Orders, Volume 3, 1651 – 1661 (New York: AMS Press, 1968; reprint of Boston: William White; 1855) pp. 49, 130. Digital version at Archive.org.

¹³ *supra*. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth. Court Orders. 2:172 – 173.

¹⁴ *supra*. Shurtleff (ed). Records of the Colony of New Plymouth. Court Orders. 3:4, 115, 123, 138, 139, 153, 154, 168, 173, 176, 181, 191, 201, 209.